

REMARKS

The following is responsive to the Patent Office Action mailed March 14, 2005. Claims 3 to 6, 11 and 13 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's objections based upon informalities. Withdrawn claims 14 to 23 have been cancelled for filing of a divisional application. Finally, the title of this application has been amended to conform to the claims remaining in this application.

The Applicant would like to thank Examiner Mitchell for the indication of the allowability of this application and for her helpful suggestions regarding amendment of claims 2 to 6, 11 and 13 to overcome the objection based upon lack of clarity. The undersigned attorney has attempted to amend these claims as suggested by the Examiner to fully respond to the objections raised by the Examiner.

In regard to claim 4, it is believed that the amendment to claim 4 clarifies the objection. That is, the apex 40 of the V-shaped bottom wall 38 is arcuate as best shown in Figures 8 to 11. As set forth in the specification of this application, "the apex 40 is preferably arcuate having a radius greater than 0.01 inches or between 0.01 and 0.05 inches, or preferably between 0.025 and 0.035 inches." Paragraph [00031], page 12, line 24 to page 13, line 1. Thus, the apex of the V-shaped bottom wall is an arcuate surface.

Claim 5 has also been amended for clarification to overcome the Examiner's objection. Claim 5 has been amended to more specifically recite the location of the linear grooves 56 in the back face 52 of the fastener and to correct the lack of antecedent basis for "V-shaped grooves." However, the objection to the recitation of "linear grooves" and the objection to the drawings is not fully understood. Claim 1 requires only one groove in the panel support face of the flange portion which is fully supported by the specification as found by the Examiner in her withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1 to 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 5, which is dependent upon claim 1 recites that the "groove" of claim 1 comprises "linear grooves on opposed sides of said pilot portion in said panel support face." That is, the "groove" of claim 1 comprises two grooves in claim 5 which is the

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disclosed embodiment of the self-attaching female fastener of this invention. Thus, there are *no grooves* in the groove of claim 1 and no correction of the drawings is required. However, in an attempt to clarify claim 5 as required by the Examiner, claim 5 has been amended to recite "said panel support face includes linear grooves on opposed sides of said pilot portion." Although the undersigned attorney respectfully submits that claim 5 prior to amendment did not require "grooves in said groove," as found by the Examiner, it is believed that the amendment to claim 5 clarifies claim 5 and responds to the Examiner's objection.


As to claim 6, commas have been added as suggested by the Examiner which hopefully overcomes the objection to claim 6. Finally, claims 11 and 13 have been amended to overcome the objection of lack of antecedent basis for "V-shaped groove."

As set forth above, it is believed by the undersigned attorney that the amendments to claims 3 to 6, 11 and 13 overcome the Examiner's objections. However, the Applicant respectfully requests a telephone interview with the Examiner if the amendments to the claims do not fully overcome the Examiner's objections. It is believed, however, that this application is now in condition for allowance.

Although it is believed that no fee is due for the filing of this Response, the Commissioner is authorized to charge our Deposit Account No. 08-2789 for any additional fees or credit the account for any overpayments regarding this Response.

Respectfully submitted,

HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.



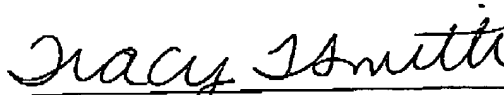
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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the attached **Amendment** is being facsimile transmitted to Examiner Katherine W. Mitchell, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, at facsimile number (703) 872-9306 on **March 30, 2005.**


Tracy L. Smith

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